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Security Council

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 5800th meeting of the Security Council, held on 12 December 2007, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council condemns in the strongest terms the terrorist attack in Baabda on 12 December 2007 which killed General Francois el-Hajj of the Lebanese Armed Forces, and killed and injured several other persons.

"It expresses its deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims, to the Lebanese Armed Forces, and to the Government of Lebanon.

"The Security Council expresses its strong condemnation of this attempt to destabilize Lebanese institutions, in this particular case the Lebanese Armed Forces.

"The Security Council reiterates its condemnation of all targeted assassinations of Lebanese leaders, particularly since October 2004, and demands an immediate end to the use of intimidation and violence against the representatives of the Lebanese people and institutions.

"It stresses that it is of the highest importance that the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of this heinous crime are brought to justice and expresses its determination to support the efforts and commitment of the Government of Lebanon to this end.

"The Security Council recalls its support for the Secretary-General's efforts for the establishment of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon in a timely manner, as a means to put an end to impunity in Lebanon and deter further assassinations in Lebanon.

"It underlines that no attempt to destabilize Lebanon should prevent the holding, without delay, of a free and fair presidential election in conformity with Lebanese constitutional rules, without any foreign interference or influence, and with full respect for democratic institutions.

"The Security Council emphasizes the importance of the unity of all the Lebanese people. It also reiterates its full support for all ongoing efforts in Lebanon to combat terrorism, solidify democratic institutions, engage in political dialogue, and pursue national reconciliation."

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